

City of Huntsville

2009 Drinking Water Quality Report for the Huntsville Water System

(936) 294-5700

Know the Facts About Your Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. This report is the summary of the results from the most recent data available from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Only those with concentrations greater than detection are provided.

En Espanol

Este reporte incluye informacion importante sobre el agua para tomr. Si tiene preguntas o’ discusiones sobre este reporte en espanol, facor de llamar al tel. (936) 294-5743 par hablar con una persona bilingue en espanol.

Special Notice for the ELDERLY, INFANTS, CANCER PATIENTS, those with HIV/AIDS or other immune problems:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Where Do We Get Our Water?

Water from the City of Huntsville is obtained from two sources: (1) Seven wells owned and operated by the City of Huntsville and (2) Treated surface water from the Huntsville Regional Water Supply System (HRWSS) as owned and operated by the Trinity River Authority (TRA) of Texas. These two sources are blended, as needed, to provide an ample supply of water year round. Approximately 75% of the water is purchased, as a finished product, from the HRWSS with the remaining 25% produced from the City wells as pumped from the Gulf Coast aquifer.

ALL Drinking Water May Contain Contaminants

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects may be obtained by calling EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Cryptosporidium & Giardia

Cryptosporidium and *Giardia* are microscopic parasites affecting the digestive tracks of humans and animals. They are shed in the feces and when ingested, may result in diarrhea, cramps, fever and other gastrointestinal symptoms. People with healthy immune systems usually recover from *Cryptosporidium* within two weeks. Immuno-compromised persons are more vulnerable and at greater risk from infections.

Understanding the Charts

The charts that follow list all of the federally regulated or monitored constituents which have been found in your drinking water. The list below explains the terms used in the charts.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

NTU – Nephelometric turbidity units are a measurement of turbidity using a nephelometer. This apparatus measures the concentration of a suspension by its scattering of a beam of light.

ppm – Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb – Parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

N/A – MCL not applicable – not regulated. Special Monitoring Requirement.

pCi/L – Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Secondary Constituents

Many constituents (such as calcium, sodium, or iron) which are often found in drinking water can cause taste, color, and odor problems. The taste and odor constituents are called secondary constituents and are regulated by the State of Texas, not EPA. These constituents are not causes for health concerns. Therefore, secondaries are not required to be reported in this document but they may greatly affect the appearance and taste of your water.

TRA Huntsville Regional Water Supply System Treatment Plant

INORGANICS

| Year | Constituent | Highest Level at any Sampling Point | Range of detected levels | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| 2008 | Barium | 0.135 | 0.072-0.135 | 2 | 2 | ppm | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2008 | Nitrate | 4.93 | 0.11-4.93 | 10 | 10 | ppm | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2006 | Gross Beta Emitters | 11.4 | 4-11.4 | 50 | 0 | pCi/L | Decay of natural and manmade deposits. |

ORGANICS

| Year | Constituent | Highest Level at any Sampling Point | Range of Detected Levels | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| 2008 | Atrazine | 0.51 | 0.51-0.51 | 3 | 3 | ppb | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops. |
| 2008 | Simazine | 0.19 | 0.19-0.19 | 4 | 4 | ppb | Herbicide runoff. |

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Year | Constituent | Average of All Sampling Points | Range of Detected Levels | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 2008 | Chloroform | 1.5 | 1.5-1.5 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Bromoform | 2.4 | 2.4-2.4 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Bromodichloromethane | 3.2 | 3.2-3.2 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Dibromochloromethane | 4.6 | 4.6-4.6 | ppb | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection. |
| Reason for Monitoring: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. | | | | | |

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

| Year | Constituent | Average of All Sampling Points | Range of Detected Levels | MCL | Unit of Measure |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 2008 | Total Haloacetic Acids | 10.2 | 1.1-14.1 | 60 | ppb |
| 2008 | Total Trihalomethanes | 24.3 | 0-29 | 80 | ppb |

City of Huntsville “Blended” Distribution System Water

TURBIDITY

| Year | Constituent | Highest Single Measurement | Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Limits | Turbidity Limits | Units of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2008 | Turbidity | 0.40 | 99% | 0.3 | NTU | Soil runoff. |
| Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. | | | | | | |

INORGANICS

| Year | Constituent | Highest Level at Any Sampling Point | Range of Detected Values | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|-----------------|---|
| 2008 | Arsenic | 5 | 3-5 | 10 | 0 | ppb | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production waste. |
| 2008 | Barium | 0.135 | 0.072-0.135 | 2 | 2 | ppm | Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2008 | Fluoride | 0.86 | 0.46-0.86 | 4 | 4 | ppm | Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories |
| 2008 | Nitrate | 4.93 | 0.11-4.93 | 10 | 10 | ppm | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2006 | Gross alpha adjusted | 3.3 | 0.0-3.3 | 15 | 0 | pci/l | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2006 | Combined Radium 226 & 228 | 0.9 | 0-0.9 | 5 | 0 | pci/l | Erosion of natural deposits. |
| 2006 | Gross beta emitters | 11.4 | 4-11.4 | 50 | 0 | pci/l | Decay of natural and manmade deposits. |

ORGANICS

| Year | Constituent | Highest Level at any Sampling Point | Range of Detected Levels | MCL | MCLG | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|-----------------|--|
| 2008 | Atrazine | 0.51 | 0.51-0.51 | 3 | 3 | ppb | Runoff from herbicide used on row crops. |
| 2008 | Simazine | 0.19 | 0.19-0.19 | 4 | 4 | ppb | Herbicide runoff. |

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

| Year | Constituent | Average of All Sample Points | Range of Detected Values | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 2008 | Chloroform | 1.5 | 1.5-1.5 | ppb | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Bromoform | 2.4 | 2.4-2.4 | ppb | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Bromodichloromethane | 3.2 | 3.2-3.2 | ppb | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Dibromochloromethane | 4.6 | 4.6-4.6 | ppb | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| Reason for Monitoring: Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants. | | | | | |

DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS

| Year | Constituent | Average of All Sampling Points | Range of Detected Levels | MCL | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|--|
| 2008 | Total Haloacetic Acids | 10.3 | 1.1-14.1 | 60 | ppb | By-product of drinking water disinfection. |
| 2008 | Total Trihalomethanes | 24.3 | 0-29 | 80 | ppb | By-product of drinking water chlorination. |

MAXIMUM RESIDUAL DISINFECTANT LEVEL

| Year | Constituent | Highest Single Measurement | Range of Detected Levels | MCL | MCLG | Units of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|------|------------------|--|
| 2008 | Chloramine | 3.9 | 0.6-3.9 | 4 | 4 | ppm | Disinfectant used to control microbes. |

LEAD AND COPPER

| Year | Constituent | The 90 th Percentile | Number of Sites Exceeding Action Level | Action Level | Unit of Measure | Source of Constituent |
|------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------|---|
| 2007 | Copper | 0.385 | 0 | 1.3 | ppm | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives. |
| 2007 | Lead | 4.7 | 0 | 15 | ppb | Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits. |

COLIFORMS

What are coliforms? Total coliform bacteria are used as indicators of microbial contamination of drinking water because testing for them is easy. While not disease-causing organisms themselves, they are often found in association with other microbes that are capable of causing disease. Coliform bacteria are more hardy than many other disease –causing organisms; therefore, their absence from water is a good indication that the water is microbiologically safe for human consumption. Fecal coliform bacteria and, in particular, *E. coli*, are members of the coliform bacteria group originating in the intestinal tract of warm blooded animals and are passed into the environment through feces. The presence of fecal coliform bacteria (*E. coli*) in drinking water may indicate recent contamination of the drinking water with fecal material. The following table indicates whether total coliform or fecal coliform bacteria were found in the monthly drinking water samples submitted for testing by your water supplier last year.

2007

TOTAL COLIFORM – NOT DETECTED

FECAL COLIFORM – NOT DETECTED

Contact Person

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(936) 294-5700

Public Participation

The City Council meets are various times throughout the year. Call 936-291-5400 for meeting times or visit our web site at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov> for a complete agenda. All meetings are held at City Hall, 1212 Avenue M.